Amendments to The Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method for reducing the risk of bacterial infection or sepsis in a susceptible patient comprising treating the susceptible patient with a pharmaceutical composition containing bacteriophage of one or more strains which produce lytic infections in pathogenic bacteria, wherein said treatment occurs prior to said patient developing an illness due to said pathogenic bacteria and said treatment reduces the risk of bacterial infection or sepsis in said susceptible patient.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein treatment of the patient reduces the level of colonization with pathogenic bacteria susceptible to the bacteriophage by at least one log.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the susceptible patient is an immunocompromised patient selected from the group consisting of leukemia patients, lymphoma patients, carcinoma patients, sarcoma patients, allogeneic transplant patients, congenital or acquired immunodeficiency patients, cystic fibrosis patients, and AIDS patients.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the susceptible patient is colonized with the pathogenic bacteria subject to infection by said bacteriophage.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the pathogenic bacteria are selected from vancomycin-resistant enterococcus (VRE), pneumococcal species, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, multi-drug resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MDRSA), multi-drug resistant *Pseudomonas* species, *Nesseria* sp., *Hemophilus* sp., *Proteus* sp., *Klebsiella* sp. and *Esherichia coli.*

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the pathogenic bacteria are selected from VRE, ~~MDSA~~ MDRSA, and multi-drug resistant *Pseudomonas.*

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the bacteriophage composition is selected from a parenteral composition, an oral tablet, capsule or liquid, a nasal aerosol, a throat wash, a toothpaste, and a topical ointment.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the patient has a wound selected from an ulcer, a laceration, a deep penetrating wound and a surgical wound, and the bacteriophage produce lytic infections in pathogenic bacteria capable of infecting these wounds.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the composition is a topical ointment, an irrigation solution or a component of a wound dressing.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutical composition contains a plurality of bacteriophage strains.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the pharmaceutical composition contains bacteriophage strains which produce lytic infections in pathogenic bacteria of a plurality of bacterial strains.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the pharmaceutical composition contains bacteriophage strains which produce lytic infections in pathogenic bacteria of a plurality of bacterial species.

13. (Currently amended) A method for reducing the incidence of infection by selected pathogenic bacteria in a medical facility comprising administering to patients admitted to the medical facility a bacteriophage preparation which reduces the colonization level by the selected pathogenic bacteria in patients at risk for infection by the selected pathogenic bacteria ~~who are admitted to said medical facility~~.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the patients at risk for infection are selected from the group consisting of leukemia patients, lymphoma patients, carcinoma patients, sarcoma patients, allogeneic transplant patients, congenital or acquired immunodeficiency patients, cystic fibrosis patients, and AIDS patients.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said bacteriophage is administered to substantially all patients admitted to said medical facility.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said bacteriophage is administered to substantially all patients colonized with the selected bacteria who are admitted to said medical facility.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the selected pathogenic bacteria is VRE, MDRSA, or multi-drug resistant *Pseudomonas.*

18. (Withdrawn) A method for reducing the incidence of VRE infection in a medical facility comprising administering a bacteriophage preparation which reduces the number of VRE in experimentally infected mice by at least 1 log to patients at risk for VRE infection who are admitted to said medical facility.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the patients at risk for VRE are selected from the group consisting of leukemia patients, lymphoma patients, carcinoma patients, sarcoma patients, allogeneic transplant patients, congenital or acquired immunodeficiency patients, cystic fibrosis patients, and AIDS patients.

20. (Withdrawn - currently amended) The method of claim ~~181~~ 18, wherein said bacteriophage is administered to substantially all patients admitted to said medical facility.

21. (Withdrawn) A method for reducing the incidence of VRE infection in a medical facility comprising applying a composition containing a bacteriophage preparation which reduces the number of VRE in experimentally infected mice by at least 1 log to a plurality of articles in said medical facility, said articles selected from the group comprising beds, chairs, wheel chairs, gurneys, surgical tables, operating room floors, operating room walls, surfaces in an intensive care unit, as well as electronic patient monitoring and therapy equipment including electrocardiographs, respirators, cardiovascular assist devices such as intraaortic balloon pumps, infusion devices, televisions, remote controllers, monitors, and telephones.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the pathogenic bacteria are selected from VRE, MDRSA, and multi-drug resistant *Pseudomonas* species.

30. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the pathogenic bacteria are selected from methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and MDRSA.

31. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the selected bacteria is VRE, MDRSA, or multi-drug resistant *Pseudomonas.*

32. (New) A method for reducing the level of colonization in a patient comprising treating the patient with a composition containing bacteriophage of one or more strains which produce lytic infections in pathogenic bacteria, wherein said patient is colonized with the pathogenic bacteria subject to infection by said bacteriophage.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein treatment of the patient reduces the level of colonization with pathogenic bacteria susceptible to the bacteriophage by at least one log.

34. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the susceptible patient is an immunocompromised patient selected from the group consisting of leukemia patients, lymphoma patients, carcinoma patients, sarcoma patients, allogeneic transplant patients, congenital or acquired immunodeficiency patients, cystic fibrosis patients, and AIDS patients.

35. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the pathogenic bacteria are selected from VRE, pneumococcal species, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, MDRSA, multi-drug

resistant *Pseudomonas* species, *Nesseria* sp., *Hemophilus* sp., *Proteus* sp., *Klebsiella* sp. and *Escherichia coli.*

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the pathogenic bacteria are selected from VRE, MDRSA, and multi-drug resistant *Pseudomonas.*

37. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the composition is selected from a parenteral composition, an oral tablet, capsule or liquid, a nasal aerosol, a throat wash, a toothpaste, and a topical ointment.

38. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the patient has a wound selected from an ulcer, a laceration, a deep penetrating wound and a surgical wound, and the bacteriophage produce lytic infections in pathogenic bacteria capable of infecting these wounds.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition is a topical ointment, an irrigation solution or a component of a wound dressing.

40. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the composition contains a plurality of bacteriophage strains.

41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the composition contains bacteriophage strains which produce lytic infections in pathogenic bacteria of a plurality of bacterial strains.

42. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the composition contains bacteriophage strains which produce lytic infections in pathogenic bacteria of a plurality of bacterial species.

43. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the pathogenic bacteria are selected from VRE, MDRSA, and multi-drug resistant *Pseudomonas* species.

44. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the pathogenic bacteria are selected from methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and MDRSA.

45. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the pathogenic bacteria is VRE.

46. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the pathogenic bacteria is MDRSA.

47. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the pathogenic bacteria is multi-drug resistant *Pseudomonas* species.

48. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the composition is administered by parenteral, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous, intraperitoneal, intrapleural, intravesicular, intrathecal, topical, oral, rectal, inhalation, ocular, otic, or nasal route.

49. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the composition is a nasal spray.

50. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the composition is a mouth wash or gargle.

51. (New) A method of reducing the risk that pathogenic bacteria will be acquired by persons in a medical facility said persons being neither colonized or infected with a pathogenic bacteria said method comprising treating a patient with bacteriophage preparation containing bacteriophage of one or more strains which produce lytic infections in pathogenic bacteria, wherein said patient is colonized with the pathogenic bacteria subject to infection by said bacteriophage, thereby reducing the risk that pathogenic bacteria will be acquired by persons neither colonized or infected with a pathogenic bacteria in said medical facility.

52. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein the selected bacteria is VRE, MDRSA, or multi-drug resistant *Pseudomonas.*